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Agenda item 99

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 7th to 11th, 19th and 22nd meetings, on 3, 4, 7, 8, 14 and 17 October 2002. At its 7th to 11th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 99 jointly with items 97 and 98. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/57/SR.7-11, 19 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/57/93).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 3 October, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/57/SR.7).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.15

5. At the 19th meeting, on 14 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/57/L.15), which read:

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 54/24 of 10 November 1999, 54/262 of 25 May 2000, 56/118 of 19 December 2001 and 56/228 of 24 December 2001,

"*Reaffirming* the principles and recommendations of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, which it endorsed in its resolution 37/51 at 3 December 1982, and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the Assembly in 1991, which provided guidance in areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity,

"*Having considered* the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid, from 8 to 12 April 2002,

"*Expressing its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Spain for hosting the World Assembly and for the hospitality extended to all participants,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

"2. *Endorses* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by consensus by the Second World Assembly on Ageing on 12 April 2002;

"3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

"4. *Recognizes* that the evolving process of global ageing should be integrated within the larger process of development and that policies on ageing deserve close examination from the developmental perspective of a broader life course and a society-wide view;

"5. *Affirms* the aim of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002, which is to ensure that persons everywhere are able to age with security and dignity and to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights;

"6. *Recognizes* that the progress in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action should be contingent upon effective partnership between Governments, all parts of civil society and the private sector as well as an enabling environment based, inter alia, on democracy, the rule of law, respect for all human rights, fundamental freedoms and good governance at all levels, including national and international levels;

"7. *Reaffirms* that enhanced international cooperation is essential to complement national efforts to fully implement the Madrid Plan of Action, and therefore encourages the international community to further promote cooperation among all actors involved;

"8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the deliberations of the high-level roundtables, 'Dialogues 2020: the future of ageing', organized by the Government of Spain within the programme of parallel events of the World Assembly;

"9. *Takes note* of the research agenda on ageing for the twenty-first century adopted at the Valencia Forum, which was held in conjunction with the World Assembly, and urges the United Nations programme on ageing to

continue, in cooperation with the entities of the United Nations system, academia, civil society and the private sector, its work for developing research and data collection tools to support the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

"10. *Welcomes* the constructive and productive participation of civil society in the Second World Assembly, including the convening of the NGO Forum on Ageing;

"11. *Calls upon* Governments to promote institutional follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action, including, as appropriate, the establishment of agencies and national committees on ageing, as well as effective organizations of older persons, educational, training and research activities on ageing and national data collection and analysis;

"12. *Invites* United Nations funds and programmes, international development agencies, international financial institutions and regional development banks to ensure that older persons are recognized as a development resource and that the question of ageing is integrated in their policies, programmes and projects as part of efforts to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

"13. *Notes with appreciation* the inclusion by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination of the system-wide implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on its 2002 agenda, and invites continued follow-up;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to improve the institutional capacity of the United Nations system to fulfil its responsibilities for implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including through the maintenance and strengthening of focal points on ageing in light of the range of tasks called for in the Plan;

"15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to allocate sufficient human and financial resources for the programme on ageing, including the establishment of a new professional post, to make it possible for the programme to effectively fulfil its task, as the United Nations focal point on ageing and to facilitate and promote the Madrid Plan of Action by, inter alia, designing guidelines for policy development and implementation and advocating means to mainstream ageing issues into development agendas;

"16. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the regional commissions to review the objectives and recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action, with a view of translating it into regional action plans, and to assist national institutions, upon request, in implementing and monitoring their actions on ageing;

"17. *Notes* the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Ministerial Conference on Ageing, organized in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, as well as the recent follow-up meeting to the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Shanghai, organized by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific and hosted by the Government of China, the high-level panel of experts convened by the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia, which

developed the Arab Plan of Action on Ageing and the African meeting at which the African Strategy on Ageing was developed;

"18. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, as the entity responsible for follow-up and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, to consider integrating the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the current Plan of Action in its work and to consider the modalities of reviews and appraisals at its forty-first session in 2003;

"19. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations programme on ageing, as the focal point on ageing within the United Nations system, to prepare a road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, which would serve to facilitate global cooperation and promote coordination of the implementation process at the global level, and invites all relevant partners, including Governments, entities of the United Nations system, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as representatives of academia and the private sector to contribute to the preparation of the road map;

"20. *Urges* all Member States and public and private organizations to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing and to support follow-up activities to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, including technical cooperation to promote the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing;

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the Political Declaration and Madrid Plan of Action as widely as possible, including among all relevant organs of the United Nations system;

"22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 17 October, the Committee had before it a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.3/57/L.15/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.15. Subsequently, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.15/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/24 of 10 November 1999, 54/262 of 25 May 2000, 56/118 of 19 December 2001 and 56/228 of 24 December 2001,

Reaffirming the principles and recommendations of the International Plan of Action on Ageing,[1] which it endorsed in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in 1991,[2] which provided guidance in areas of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity,

Having considered the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,[3]

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Spain for hosting the World Assembly and for the hospitality extended to all participants,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing;[3]

2. *Endorses* the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[4] adopted by consensus by the Second World Assembly on Ageing on 12 April 2002;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing;[5]

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take the necessary steps to implement the Madrid Plan of Action;

5. *Recognizes* that the evolving process of global ageing requires actions at all levels on the three priority directions in the Madrid Plan of Action, namely, older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments;

6. *Affirms* the aim of the Madrid Plan of Action, which is to ensure that persons everywhere are able to age with security and dignity and to continue to participate in their societies as citizens with full rights;

7. *Recognizes* that progress made in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action should be contingent upon effective partnership among Governments, all parts of civil society and the private sector, as well as an enabling environment based, inter alia, on democracy, the rule of law, respect for all human rights, fundamental freedoms and good governance at all levels, including the national and international levels;

8. *Reaffirms* that enhanced international cooperation is an essential complement to national efforts to fully implement the Madrid Plan of Action, and

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[1] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July to 6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16).

[2] Resolution 46/91, annex.

[3] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4).

[4] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] A/57/93.

therefore encourages the international community further to promote cooperation among all actors involved;

9. *Invites* international financial institutions and regional development banks to examine and adjust their lending and grants practices so as to ensure that older persons are recognized as a development resource and are taken into account in their policies and projects as part of efforts to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

10. *Welcomes* the active participation of civil society, the private sector and other relevant actors in the Second World Assembly on Ageing and their support for the implementation of the Political Declaration and the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as the contributions made through parallel events organized by the Government of Spain, and urges relevant actors to continue research efforts in support of the Plan;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider the necessary measures to improve the institutional capacity of the United Nations system to fulfil its responsibilities for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including, inter alia, the maintenance and strengthening of focal points on ageing in the light of the range of tasks called for in the Plan;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, to allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the Programme on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development so as to make it possible for the Programme to efficiently and effectively fulfil its task as the United Nations focal point on ageing and to facilitate and promote the Madrid Plan of Action by, inter alia, designing guidelines for policy development and implementation and advocating means to mainstream ageing issues into development agendas;

13. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the regional commissions to review the objectives and recommendations of the Madrid Plan of Action, with a view of translating it into regional plans of action, and to assist national institutions, upon request, in implementing and monitoring their actions on ageing;

14. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development, as the entity responsible for the follow-up to and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, to consider integrating the different dimensions of population ageing as contained in the current Plan of Action in its work and to consider the modalities for reviews and appraisals at its forty-first session in 2003;

15. *Welcomes* the preparation of a road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action by the Programme on Ageing, and invites all relevant actors to contribute to its preparation;

16. *Urges* all Member States and other actors to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing and to support activities undertaken in follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, including technical cooperation to promote the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the Political Declaration and the Madrid Plan of Action as widely as possible, including among all relevant organs of the United Nations system;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.